

# NEW SOUTH WALES.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 3. July 24, 1931.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

### SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

#### 1. RAINFALL IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.  
(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

| Month.          | Sheep Districts. |       | Wheat Districts. |       | Dairying Districts. |       |
|-----------------|------------------|-------|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
|                 | 1930.            | 1931. | 1930.            | 1931. | 1930.               | 1931. |
| January ... ..  | 75               | 55    | 44               | 69    | 103                 | 48    |
| February ... .. | 43               | 37    | 36               | 37    | 68                  | 181   |
| March ... ..    | 64               | 255   | 48               | 270   | 148                 | 123   |
| April ... ..    | 68               | 210   | 67               | 204   | 132                 | 215   |
| May ... ..      | 90               | 280   | 82               | 312   | 174                 | 74    |
| June ... ..     | 154              | 193   | 111              | 227   | 351                 | 47    |

Continuance of abnormally heavy rains over four consecutive months throughout most of the hinterland has had adverse effects on the wheat crops, and has delayed early shearing operations in certain districts.

#### 2. WOOL.

The Australian selling programme for 1931-32 provides for an increase of 8 per cent. in production over 1930-31, and the increase in New South Wales is likely to be proportionately greater.

The new season's sales in Sydney will commence on 31st August.

#### \* SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

| Month of.                                 | Number of bales sold.* |           |           | Amount realised for wool sold.* |             |             |
|---|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | 1929.                  | 1930.     | 1931.     | 1929.                           | 1930.       | 1931.       |
| January ... ..                            | 138,314                | 99,715    | 117,022   | £ 3,129,820                     | £ 1,294,508 | £ 1,098,667 |
| February ... ..                           | 129,463                | 144,718   | 181,824   | 2,762,640                       | 1,728,739   | 2,138,391   |
| March ... ..                              | 159,906                | 87,694    | 134,472   | 3,375,461                       | 1,031,978   | 1,908,022   |
| April ... ..                              | 98,430                 | 55,329    | 71,016    | 1,970,445                       | 717,199     | 880,901     |
| May ... ..                                | 57,098                 | 161,718   | 28,584    | 944,538                         | 2,310,886   | 295,482     |
| June ... ..                               | 22,667                 | 103,909   | 23,349    | 331,892                         | 1,247,847   | 198,269     |
| Twelve months ended<br>30th June ... ..   | 1,149,905              | 1,095,861 | 1,037,497 | 25,113,041                      | 14,888,098  | 11,743,360  |
| Number of Bales in Store Unsold.          |                        |           |           |                                 |             |             |
| In store, 30th June (current clip) ... .. | 15,370                 | 17,883    | 23,276    | ...                             | ...         | ...         |

\* Including old season's wool in some cases.

The average price of greasy wool at Sydney auctions in 1930-31 was 8.7d. per lb., as compared with 10.5d. and 16.5d. respectively in the two preceding seasons, and 8.5d. in the year 1910-11.

\*54201—A

[Price, 3d.]

### 3. WHEAT.

Continuous rains during June following the excessive rains of March, April, and May, seriously impeded sowing operations throughout the whole of the wheat belt of New South Wales. The Department of Agriculture forecasts that both the area sown and the yield of wheat in this State for 1931-32 will be below the average.

Despite unsettled world conditions, oversea shipments of the current crop continue to be unusually rapid.

#### WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

| Month.                   | 1928-29.                        | 1929-30.  | 1930-31.   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
|                          | £                               | £         | £          |
| December... ..           | 1,148,769                       | 187,388   | 487,866    |
| January ... ..           | 1,205,737                       | 122,541   | 432,109    |
| February ... ..          | 792,665                         | 126,663   | 447,882    |
| March ... ..             | 939,311                         | 135,683   | 923,968    |
| April ... ..             | 629,901                         | 120,272   | 525,948    |
| May ... ..               | 227,616                         | 142,820   | 489,707    |
| June ... ..              | 298,132                         | 118,291   | 449,064    |
| Totals for seven months— |                                 |           |            |
| Value ... ..             | £5,242,131                      | £953,658  | £3,756,544 |
| Quantity ... ..          | 22,096,430                      | 3,870,329 | 32,116,917 |
|                          | Equivalent in bushels of wheat. |           |            |

The exports for the seven months ended 30th June, 1931, include 26,788,719 bushels of grain and 111,892 tons of flour.

Allowing for carry-over from last season (5,159,000 bushels) and deducting wheat despatched interstate, the surplus exportable oversea direct from New South Wales in the current season is in the vicinity of 48,000,000 bushels (wheat and flour), so that the exportable surplus remaining at 30th June, 1931, was equivalent to about 16,000,000 bushels. At 27th June, 1931, 15,600,000 bushels of wheat grain were stacked in railway yards or stored in silos.

### 4. BUTTER.

The production of butter (in factories) in New South Wales for the eleven months ended 31st May, 1931, was 101,586,716 lb., as compared with 95,237,084 lb. for the corresponding period last year—an increase of 6,349,632 lb., or 6·7 per cent.

| Month.            | Output of Butter<br>(New South Wales Factories.). |            | Value of Butter exported<br>(New South Wales). |           |
|-------------------|---|------------|--|-----------|
|                   | 1930.   | 1931.      | 1930.  | 1931.     |
|                   | lb.   | lb.        | £  | £         |
| January ... ..    | 11,256,703  | 9,912,639  | 219,763  | 144,211   |
| February ... ..   | 11,226,810  | 10,662,140 | 281,416  | 230,461   |
| March ... ..      | 11,621,689  | 12,384,094 | 165,806  | 313,396   |
| April ... ..      | 9,604,933   | 10,813,135 | 73,431   | 235,051   |
| May ... ..        | 7,514,365   | 9,127,644  | 24,513   | 128,752   |
| June ... ..       | 5,523,552   | .....      | 18,202   | 61,667    |
| Six months ... .. | 56,747,152  | .....      | 783,131  | 1,113,538 |

The production for April and May was the largest recorded for those months in New South Wales.

## 5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports :—

| Month.                         | Coal Hauled by Government Railways. |            | Coal Exported from N.S.W.† |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
|                                | 1928.                               | 1931.      | 1931.                      |
|                                | tons.                               | tons.      | tons.                      |
| January ... ..                 | 546,533                             | 296,226    | 167,139                    |
| February ... ..                | 502,801                             | 336,764    | 192,809                    |
| March ... ..                   | 522,006                             | 366,620    | 218,195                    |
| April ... ..                   | 427,279                             | 282,425    | *135,300                   |
| May ... ..                     | 572,078                             | 399,174    | *224,200                   |
| June ... ..                    | 515,271                             | *420,000   | *239,600                   |
| Six months ended 30th June ... | 3,085,968                           | *2,101,209 | *1,177,243                 |

\* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Oversea and Interstate.

The quantities hauled by rail exclude coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

The expansion in May and June, 1931, was due largely to increased shipments to New Zealand but interstate requirements also increased substantially.

The total oversea and interstate trade for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1931, was 2,365,000 tons as compared with 3,464,000 tons in the year 1928, and 2,182,000 tons in the year 1929.

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Monthly data as to factory sales and employment are being obtained.

## 6. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

### PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

|      |     |     |     |     |     | Month of June. |                     | Three months ended 30th June. |                     | Three months ended 30th June. |                     |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
|      |     |     |     |     |     | Suburbs.       |                     | Suburbs.                      |                     | Country Municipalities.       |                     |
|      |     |     |     |     |     | No.            | Value of Buildings. | No.                           | Value of Buildings. | No.                           | Value of Buildings. |
| 1929 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | No.            |                     |                               | £                   |                               | £                   |
| 1929 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 671            | 772,378             | 2,096                         | 2,380,032           | 1,127                         | 954,923             |
| 1930 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146            | 132,089             | 550                           | 600,816             | 485                           | 439,217             |
| 1931 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31             | 29,064              | 153                           | 111,896             | 260*                          | 120,000*            |

\* Partly estimated.

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings should show in advance the trend in the building industry. Suburban building permits have continued to decline and were less in June, 1931, than in any recent month. The total value of proposed new buildings and additions in city, suburban and country municipalities was approximately £582,000 in June quarter, 1931, as compared with £948,841 in March quarter.

## SECTION B.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

### 7. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

|          | Month of June. |           |                     | Twelve Months ended 30th June. |            |                     |
|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
|          | Imports.       | Exports.* | Excess of Exports.* | Imports.                       | Exports.*  | Excess of Exports.* |
|          | £              | £         | £                   | £                              | £          | £                   |
| 1929 ... | 5,348,006      | 2,311,841 | (—) 3,036,165       | 63,491,123                     | 49,139,296 | (—) 14,351,827      |
| 1930 ... | 2,737,535      | 1,983,561 | (—) 753,974         | 57,129,636                     | 31,648,881 | (—) 25,480,755      |
| 1931 ... | 1,526,296      | 1,826,411 | † 300,115           | 25,954,796                     | 30,445,276 | † 4,490,480         |

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

† See notes below.

\* Excluding gold specie as follows :—

|                                   | 1929.   | 1930.     | 1931.     |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | £       | £         | £         |
| Month of June ...                 | 7,000   | 401,126   | 1,000,000 |
| Twelve months ended 30th June ... | 148,994 | 4,112,926 | 1,041,056 |

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of exports marked † above is consequently overstated.

### 8. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Taxable Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

| Month 1930.       |     |            |  | Month 1931.       |     |            |  |
|-------------------|-----|------------|--|-------------------|-----|------------|--|
|                   |     |            |  |                   |     |            |  |
| Amount of Sales.  |     |            |  | Amount of Sales.  |     |            |  |
|                   |     | £          |  |                   |     | £          |  |
| August ...        | ... | 4,435,320  |  | January ...       | ... | 4,200,489  |  |
| September ...     | ... | 5,023,297  |  | February ...      | ... | 4,557,556  |  |
| October ...       | ... | 5,071,212  |  | March ...         | ... | 4,823,684  |  |
| November ...      | ... | 5,255,118  |  | April ...         | ... | 5,268,022  |  |
| December ...      | ... | 5,471,422  |  | May ...           | ... | 5,165,266  |  |
| Total—five months | £   | 25,256,369 |  | Total—five months | £   | 24,015,017 |  |

The amounts of sales represent the approximate trend of wholesale trade in local and imported secondary products.

The expansion in November and December, 1930, is probably traceable to Christmas trade. The decline in the first three months of 1931 has been followed by some recovery in April and May.

### RETAIL TRADE.

Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of retail business.



## SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

## 9. RAILWAYS.

## NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

|          | Month of April. |                         |                     | Month of May.  |                         |                     |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|          | Gross Revenue.  | Net Goods Ton-mileage.* | Passenger Journeys. | Gross Revenue. | Net Goods Ton-mileage.* | Passenger Journeys. |
|          | £               | thousands.              | thousands.          | £              | thousands.              | thousands.          |
| 1929 ... | 1,609,874       | 137,470                 | 13,145*             | 1,465,405      | 145,062                 | 12,176              |
| 1930 ... | 1,441,947       | 112,683                 | 11,546              | 1,273,633      | 125,747                 | 11,371              |
| 1931 ... | 1,246,009       | 133,301                 | 9,972               | 1,090,465      | 109,835                 | 10,210              |

\*Goods and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

The passenger mileage in April, 1931, was 20·8 per cent. less than in April, 1930; the corresponding decrease in passenger journeys was 13·6 per cent. The number of passenger journeys, therefore, does not fully reflect the diminution in coaching traffic.

The financial results of operations were :—

| Five months ended 31st May. |     |     |     | Gross Revenue. | Working Expenses.* | Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses. |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|--------------------|--|
|                             |     |     |     | £              | £                  | £  |
| 1929 ...                    | ... | ... | ... | 7,949,774      | 6,305,362          | 1,644,412                                |
| 1930 ...                    | ... | ... | ... | 7,026,834      | 6,104,540          | 922,294                                  |
| 1931 ...                    | ... | ... | ... | 6,084,292      | 5,201,120          | 883,172                                  |

\* Interest on loan capital is not included as working expenses.

## 10. TRAMWAYS.

## NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

| Month.<br>(1931). | Sydney and Suburbs. |  |                     | Newcastle and Suburbs. |  |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|
|                   | Earnings.           | Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.* | Passengers carried. | Earnings.              | Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.* | Passengers carried. |
|                   | £                   | £  | thousands.          | £                      | £  | thousands.          |
| January ...       | 270,304             | 6,865                                      | 22,833              | 13,393                 | (—) 5,228                                  | 1,098               |
| February ...      | 220,155             | 6,226                                      | 20,951              | 11,670                 | (—) 4,245                                  | 1,470               |
| March ...         | 241,423             | 1,117                                      | 22,936              | 12,516                 | (—) 6,280                                  | 1,605               |
| April ...         | 237,012             | (—) 374                                    | 22,144              | 11,986                 | (—) 3,443                                  | 1,531               |
| May ...           | 233,293             | (—) 12,811                                 | 21,700              | 12,990                 | (—) 3,412                                  | 1,635               |
| June... ..        | +                   | +  | 20,461              | +                      | +  | 1,580               |

\* Interest on loan capital is not included as working expenses. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings.

† Figures not available at date of publication.

The combined operations of both systems showed £69,463 net excess of earnings in March quarter, 1930, as compared with £1,545 net excess of working expenses in March quarter, 1931. The retrogression in May is in some degree seasonal. In recent years June quarter has been the least profitable part of the tramway year.

## 11. MOTOR OMNIBUS TRAFFIC.

### METROPOLITAN TRAFFIC AREA.

| Year ended 30th June. | Revenue.  | Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses. | Passengers carried. |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|---------------------|
|                       | £         | £   | Thousands.          |
| 1929 ... ..           | 1,446,876 | 153,439                                   | 89,845              |
| 1930 ... ..           | 1,540,455 | 142,335                                   | 94,482              |

The number of passengers carried in the three months ended 31st March, 1930, was 24,199,797, as compared with 23,091,652 in the corresponding quarter of 1929. Quarterly returns are in course of compilation.

## 12. MOTOR VEHICLES.

### NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

| Class.                  | 30th June— |         |         | 31st May, 1931. | 30th April, 1931. |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                         | 1929.      | 1930.   | 1931.   |                 |                   |
| Cars ... ..             | 162,298    | 169,495 | 154,096 | 154,421*        | 156,580           |
| Lorries and Vans ... .. | 41,689     | 45,309  | 41,788  | 41,998          | 42,682            |
| Cycles ... ..           | 30,937     | 29,410  | 25,453  | 25,584*         | 25,938            |

\* Revised.

### Decrease.

|   | Cars. | Lorries and Vans. | Cycles. |
|---|-------|-------------------|---------|
| Three months ended 31st March, 1931 ... | 5,336 | 1,224             | 913     |
| " " 30th June, 1931 ...                 | 4,737 | 1,452             | 892     |

The number of new cars registered during the four weeks ending on the first Tuesday in July, 1931, was 221, compared with 785 and 1,952 in the corresponding periods of 1930 and 1929 respectively.

## SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

### 13. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

| June Quarter, | Deposits.  | Advances, &c.,<br>and Government<br>Securities. | Excess of<br>Deposits over<br>Advances, &c. |
|---------------|------------|---|---|
|               | thousand £ | thousand £                                      | thousand £                                  |
| 1929 ... ..   | 134,324    | 143,823   | (-) 9,499                                   |
| 1930 ... ..   | 130,418    | 151,024   | (-) 20,606                                  |
| 1931 ... ..   | 121,353    | 136,267   | (-) 14,914                                  |

(-) Denotes excess of advances.

### 14. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

| June<br>Quarter. | Deposits.                       |                                       |            | Advances, &c. | Excess of<br>Deposits over<br>Advances. | Ratio of<br>Advances to<br>Deposits. |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
|                  | Bearing<br>Interest<br>(Fixed). | Not Bearing<br>Interest<br>(Current). | Total.     |               |   |                                      |
|                  | thousand £                      | thousand £                            | thousand £ | thousand £    | thousand £                              | per cent.                            |
| 1929             | 63,297                          | 47,684                                | 110,981    | 100,808       | 10,173                                  | 90.8                                 |
| 1930             | 65,241                          | 40,676                                | 105,917    | 107,475       | (-) 1,558                               | 101.5                                |
| 1931             | 63,257                          | 34,890                                | 98,147     | 97,360        | 787                                     | 99.2                                 |

### 15. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

|      |     |     |     |     | Month of June. | Six months ended<br>30th June. |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|--------------------------------|
|      |     |     |     |     | £              | £                              |
| 1929 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 84,766,013     | 528,306,960                    |
| 1930 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 71,690,087     | 454,427,708                    |
| 1931 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83,728,574     | 466,074,096                    |

For the three months ended March the total clearings were approximately the same in 1931 as in 1930; in April there was an increase, followed by an almost equal decrease in May, and an increase in June.

While the more rapid disposals of wool and wheat have tended to sustain business activity and the volume of clearings in the current year, abnormal transactions on account of Governments and Savings Banks have been much greater in 1931 than in 1930. The amount of clearings has been swollen thereby, consequently the unadjusted figures do not indicate the relative volume of commercial and industrial activity for the current year. Elimination of the abnormal transactions mentioned would probably reveal some diminution in the volume of ordinary trade clearings even when allowance is made for the lower level of prices ruling in 1931.

## 16. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

|      |     |     | Month of June.          |                      | Six months ended 30th June. |                      |
|------|-----|-----|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
|      |     |     | Consideration of Sales. | Amount of Mortgages. | Consideration of Sales.     | Amount of Mortgages. |
|      |     |     | £                       | £                    | £                           | £                    |
| 1930 | ... | ... | 886,246*                | 1,360,328*           | 15,593,412†                 | 19,954,426           |
| 1931 | ... | ... | 1,013,820               | 2,220,550            | 6,567,724                   | 11,988,537           |

\* Transactions were abnormally small in June, 1930.

† Approximate.

Sales in the month of June, 1931, were a little smaller than the average for the preceding five months, while mortgages were a little larger. The amount of considerations of sales is approximately 42 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 60 per cent. of the corresponding figures for last year. This decrease is partly due to a lower level of values.

## 17. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK

|      |     |     | Month of June. |         |            | Six months ended 30th June. |           |            |
|------|-----|-----|----------------|---------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
|      |     |     | Crops.         | Wool.   | Livestock. | Crops.                      | Wool.     | Livestock. |
|      |     |     | £              | £       | £          | £                           | £         | £          |
| 1930 | ... | ... | 448,562        | 660,372 | 503,191    | 3,358,281                   | 2,188,598 | 1,741,496  |
| 1931 | ... | ... | 464,724        | 392,600 | 249,246    | 3,900,717                   | 2,712,017 | 1,663,175  |

Despite the lower level of values, the amounts involved in liens to date are much greater in 1931 than in 1930. The total is £8,276,000 for the first six months of 1931 compared with £7,288,000 for the same period last year.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow:—

| Six months ended 30th June. |     | Number of Crop Liens. | Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.* | Number of Livestock under Mortgage. |         |         |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                             |     |                       |  | Sheep.*                             | Cattle. | Horses. |
| 1930                        | ... | 9,335                 | 5,937,509                                  | 3,596,490                           | 48,782  | 11,191  |
| 1931                        | ... | 9,041                 | 7,860,574                                  | 6,145,458                           | 68,085  | 15,898  |

\* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

The number of crop liens showed an increase in the first three months of 1931 as compared with 1930, followed by decreases in April, May and June.

## 18. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

| Year. |     |     | Month of June. |              | Six months ended 30th June. |              |
|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
|       |     |     | Number.        | Liabilities. | Number.                     | Liabilities. |
| 1930  | ... | ... | 124            | £ 308,523    | 577                         | £ 1,121,550  |
| 1931  | ... | ... | 124            | 193,427      | 742                         | 1,365,337    |

The number of bankruptcies for April, May and June, 1931, was slightly less than for the same months of 1930, while the gross liabilities were 19 per cent. less. The bankruptcies for the year ended 30th June, 1931, numbered 1,516 with £2,930,489 total gross liabilities compared with 1,027 and £1,757,935 in the preceding financial year.



## SECTION E.—GENERAL.

## 19. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

|      |     |     |     | Month of<br>May (a). | Middle of Quarter<br>ended 31st March (b). |
|------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|--|
|      |     |     |     | Number.              | Per cent.                                  |
| 1929 | ... | ... | ... | 28,000               | 9·7  |
| 1930 | ... | ... | ... | 52,000               | 16·3                                       |
| 1931 | ... | ... | ... | 125,000              | 29·2                                       |
|      |     |     |     | April, 1931.         | December Quarter,<br>1930.                 |
|      |     |     |     | 115,000              | 26·3                                       |

(a) Estimate as at end of month by Director of State Labour Exchange—representing approximate total number unemployed.

(b) Estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

## AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

## 20. POPULATION, MIGRATION, AND MARRIAGE RATE (N.S.W.).

| Three Months<br>ended<br>31st March. |     | Total<br>Increase in<br>in<br>Population<br>during Quarter. | Net Migration during Quarter. |           | Natural<br>Increase<br>(Excess of<br>Births over<br>Deaths). | Marriages. |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---|-------------------------------|-----------|--|------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                      |     |   | Interstate.                   | Oversea.  |  | Number.    | Rate per<br>1,000 of<br>Population. |
| 1929                                 | ... | 11,847  | (+) 3,742                     | (+) 411   | 7,694  | 4,699      | 7·68                                |
| 1930                                 | ... | 6,052   | (+) 498                       | (—) 2,215 | 7,769  | 4,813      | 7·77                                |
| 1931                                 | ... | 4,029   | (—) 1,026                     | (—) 2,549 | 7,604  | 3,840      | 6·13                                |

(+) Denotes net immigration. (—) Denotes net emigration.

These figures indicate an increase in emigration both interstate and oversea. The number of marriages and the marriage rate are generally considered to be a reflex of economic conditions in the State.

## 21. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).

(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

| Month.             |     |     |     | Average,<br>1929 to 1931. | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| January            | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,031 | 1,013 | 956   |
| February           | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,044 | 981   | 974   |
| March              | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,018 | 1,011 | 971   |
| April              | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,036 | 1,004 | 960   |
| May                | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,055 | 1,000 | 944   |
| June               | ... | ... | ... | 1,000                     | 1,035 | 999   | 966   |
| Average (6 months) |     |     |     | 1,000                     | 1,037 | 1,002 | 962   |

## 22. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

| Date.     |     |     |     | Wool. | Wheat. | Butter. | Non-Rural.† | All<br>Commodities. |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1911      | ... | ... | ... | 100   | 100    | 100     | 100         | 100                 |
| 1929*     | ... | ... | ... | 162   | 140    | 204     | 181         | 186                 |
| 1930—     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | ...    | ...     | ...         | ...                 |
| July      | ... | ... | ... | 113   | 109    | 184     | 174†        | 173                 |
| August    | ... | ... | ... | 112   | 108    | 184     | 175         | 173                 |
| September | ... | ... | ... | 111   | 90     | 167     | 176†        | 164                 |
| October   | ... | ... | ... | 97    | 77     | 155     | 175†        | 158                 |
| November  | ... | ... | ... | 99    | 74     | 144     | 176         | 157                 |
| December  | ... | ... | ... | 93    | 69     | 136     | 178†        | 153                 |
| 1931—     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | ...    | ...     | ...         | ...                 |
| January   | ... | ... | ... | 91    | 62     | 151     | 175         | 154†                |
| February  | ... | ... | ... | 106   | 61     | 167     | 177†        | 154†                |
| March     | ... | ... | ... | 120   | 61     | 170     | 179†        | 157†                |
| April     | ... | ... | ... | 121   | 65     | 153     | 180         | 158                 |
| May       | ... | ... | ... | 114   | 71     | 151     | 180         | 156                 |
| June      | ... | ... | ... | 106   | 66     | 155     | 179         | 155                 |

\* Average for year.

† Revised.

† Includes only those primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on page 488 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1930.

The marked disparity between the relative price levels of the principal rural products and the non-rural group has been a prominent feature of price movements since the early part of last year.

Prices of non-rural products have risen by about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. since January, 1931.

## 23. WORLD PRICE LEVELS.

After showing a tendency to assume greater stability, and even to manifest some recovery in February and March, 1931, average wholesale price levels in Great Britain and the United States declined further in April and May. The decline ceased during June and the price index remained steady at the level prevailing at the end of May.

## 24. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices for Metals (London Exchange).

| Date.                  | Silver<br>(Standard). | Lead.    | Spelter. | Tin<br>(Standard). | Copper<br>(Standard). |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|                        | per oz.               | per ton. | per ton. | per ton.           | per ton.              |
| 1930.                  | s. d.                 | £ s. d.  | £ s. d.  | £ s. d.            | £ s. d.               |
| April ... ..           | 1 7-55                | 18 6 10  | 18 2 0   | 162 14 8           | 62 3 3                |
| 1931.                  |                       |          |          |                    |                       |
| January ... ..         | 1 1-81                | 13 17 9  | 12 18 7  | 115 17 7           | 44 19 7               |
| February ... ..        | 1 0-43                | 13 9 11  | 12 10 0  | 118 0 1            | 45 8 4                |
| March ... ..           | 1 1-52                | 13 4 10  | 12 8 8   | 121 18 5           | 44 17 2               |
| April ... ..           | 1 1-12                | 12 9 10  | 11 11 11 | 112 16 9           | 42 14 8               |
| May ... ..             | 1 0-85                | 11 12 8  | 10 13 7  | 104 8 0            | 38 18 10              |
| June ... ..            | 1 0-71                | 11 15 4  | 11 10 2  | 105 0 8            | 35 17 6               |
| July (1st to 17th) ... | 1 1-34                | 12 16 4  | 12 10 9  | 113 4 2            | 35 4 3                |

After some signs of stability and even recovery in February and March, there was a marked decline in April and May, but recovery commenced in the second week of June.

## 25. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

Pending final determination of methods of grouping a preliminary index of the values of typical stocks on Sydney Stock Exchange is published below.

The index is unweighted, and represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values expressed on a common basis. The stocks included are the ordinary shares of companies whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales. The shares of banking and insurance companies have not been included.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

| Month.          | 44<br>Industrial and<br>Trading Stocks. | 11<br>Miscellaneous<br>Stocks. | 55<br>Stocks. |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1931.           |   |                                |               |
| January ... ..  | 78-0                                    | 83-5                           | 79-2          |
| February ... .. | 77-0                                    | 83-5                           | 78-5          |
| March ... ..    | 79-5                                    | 92-0                           | 82-4          |
| April ... ..    | 79-5                                    | 95-5                           | 82-0          |
| May ... ..      | 78-0                                    | 95-0                           | 81-4          |
| June ... ..     | 75-5                                    | 93-0                           | 79-2          |

Practically all classes of stocks showed (in total) some improvement between February and April, followed by recessions during May and June. These movements were associated with corresponding movements in the price of wool and in the general level of world prices. Latterly factors internal to Australia have exercised an influence on values.

### NOTICE.

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The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

24th July, 1931.

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